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PAGE 01 STATE 138779 242255Z
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	IO-16	JUSE-00	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
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PAGE 02 STATE 138779 242255Z
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS PINR PINS PREL PHUM RW BY
SUBJECT: MOOSE URGES THE RPF TO AGREE TO CEASE FIRE

1. SUMMARY. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS MOOSE
DISCUSSED WITH THE RPF VICE CHAIRMAN, PATRICK MAZIMHAKA,
U.S. DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES TO END THE KILLINGS AND
BROKER A CEASE FIRE. IN ARGUING FOR A CEASE FIRE, MOOSE
TOLD THE RPF THAT THEIR MILITARY PUSH TO THE SOUTH COULD

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PRECIPITATE FURTHER VIOLENCE BY BOTH RGF AND RPF FORCES AND MIGHT DESTABILIZE BURUNDI. MOOSE URGED THE RPF TO MEET WITH THE UN DIRECTOR OF PEACEKEEPING TO DISCUSS THEIR CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS FOR AN EXPANDED UN FORCE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON THURSDAY, MAY 19, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS GEORGE MOOSE MET WITH PATRICK MAZIMHAKA, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE RPF, GERALD GAHIMA, DIRECTOR OF CABINET FOR THE RPF MINISTER-DESIGNATE OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, AND CHARLES MURIGANDE, RPF WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE. ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE AMBASSADOR ARLENE RENDER, DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND LAURA LANE AS NOTETAKER.

3. MOOSE TALKED TO THE RPF DELEGATION ABOUT AF'S RECENT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO END THE MASSACRES AND BROKER A CEASE FIRE. MOOSE SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO URGING THE UN TO ACT AS QUICKLY AS IT CAN TO TRY TO EXTEND PROTECTION TO CIVILIANS TRAPPED BEHIND RGF LINES, ACTING SECRETARY
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PAGE 03 STATE 138779 242255Z
OF STATE TALBOTT HAD CONVOKED RWANDAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. UWIMANA AND URGED FULL GOR COOPERATION IN THE UN ASSISTED EVACUATION OF CIVILIANS. AT AF'S SUBSEQUENT URGING, UWIMANA CALLED RWANDA'S UN DELEGATE TO RECONFIRM THAT THE GOR FULLY SUPPORTED THE US PROPOSED PLAN.

4. A/S MOOSE ALSO TALKED TO THE RPF DELEGATION ABOUT HIS CALL TO RPF FORCE COMMANDER PAUL KAGAME. MOOSE SAID THAT HE HAD URGED KAGAME TO REESTABLISH A DIALOGUE WITH THE UN FORCE COMMANDER GENERAL DALLAIRE IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THE MODALITIES FOR EVACUATION OF CIVILIANS TRAPPED IN KIGALI AND BEHIND RGF LINES. MAZIMHAKA AGREED WITH MOOSE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH UNAMIR.

5. IN DISCUSSIONS OF A CEASE FIRE, THE RPF EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT THE KILLINGS MUST STOP BEFORE THEY WILL AGREE TO A CEASE FIRE. MOOSE REPLIED THAT CONTINUED MILITARY PRESSURE WOULDN'T NECESSARILY STOP THE KILLINGS AND MAY INSTEAD PRECIPITATE GREATER VIOLENCE. ECHOING HIS PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH GENERAL KAGAME, MOOSE SAID THAT THERE WERE ALREADY SIGNS OF PANIC ON THE GOR SIDE. THIS FEAR COULD TRANSLATE INTO FURTHER WANTON VIOLENCE AGAINST INNOCENT CIVILIANS. MOOSE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE

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POSSIBLE DESTABILIZING IMPACT RPF ADVANCES COULD HAVE ON BURUNDI. LASTLY, MOOSE SUGGESTED THAT A COLLAPSE IN ORDER AND DISCIPLINE AMONG RPF TROOPS STRETCHED TO THEIR LIMITS WITH THE CAMPAIGN TO THE SOUTH COULD RESULT IN MORE REPORTED RPF ATROCITIES.

6. IN DEFENSE OF THEIR CURRENT MILITARY STRATEGY TO
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PAGE 04 STATE 138779 242255Z
PACIFY THE SOUTH, THE RPF SAID THAT THEIR PEOPLE WERE BLAMING THEM FOR THE GENOCIDE FOR NOT HAVING TAKEN MILITARY CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY IN FEBRUARY 1993 WITH THEIR LAST OFFENSIVE BEFORE SIGNING THE ARUSHA ACCORDS. THE RPF SAID THAT THEY HAD EVIDENCE THAT PLANS AND PREPARATIONS WERE BEING MADE EVEN BEFORE THEIR FEBRUARY OFFENSIVE TO IMPLEMENT THE CURRENT "FINAL SOLUTION". YET, THE RPF CLAIMED THAT THEY IGNORED THE EVIDENCE AND THEIR OWN ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION, BELIEVING INSTEAD THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD PREVENT ANY PLANS OF GENOCIDE FROM BEING IMPLEMENTED.

7. THE RPF DELEGATION SAID THAT IT DID NOT AGREE WITH THE US'S CURRENT ANALYSIS THAT IF THEY STOPPED ADVANCING, THE MASSACRES WOULD STOP. INSTEAD, THEY BELIEVE THE GOR IS TRYING TO BLACKMAIL THEM BY BARGAINING WITH THE LIVES OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS TO STOP RPF MILITARY ADVANCES.

8. THE RPF SUPPORTED THE UN RESOLUTION TO DEPLOY A HUMANITARIAN FORCE IN THE SOUTH TO PROTECT CIVILIANS TRAPPED BEHIND RPF LINES. MAZIMHAKA SAID THAT IF RPF TROOPS WERE TO LINK UP WITH UN FORCES IN THE SOUTH, THE RPF WOULD AGREE TO AN AUTOMATIC CEASE FIRE. BUT UNTIL ALL CIVILIANS WERE SAFE, THE RPF WOULD CONTINUE ITS MILITARY ADVANCES.

9. MOOSE REPLIED THAT HE WAS SENSITIVE TO THEIR ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION. HE SAID THOUGH THAT EVENTS HAD CHANGED AND THERE WAS NOW A POWERFUL INTERNATIONAL MOTIVATION TO STOP THE MASSACRES AND BRING THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO JUSTICE. BUT CRUCIAL TO ALLOWING FOR EVACUATION OF

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PAGE 05 STATE 138779 242255Z

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TRAPPED CIVILIANS AND DEPLOYMENT OF UN FORCES IN THE
SOUTH WAS A CEASE FIRE.

10. ALTHOUGH THE RPF DISAGREED ON THE ROLE A CEASE FIRE
COULD PLAY IN ENDING THE MASSACRES, THE DELEGATION
AGREED, AT MOOSE'S SUGGESTION, TO MEET WITH THE UN
DIRECTOR OF PEACEKEEPING TO DISCUSS THE RPF VIEWS OF THE
DEPLOYMENT OF AN EXPANDED UN FORCE IN THE SOUTH. THE RPF
ALSO SAID THAT THEY WOULD GIVE THEIR FULL COOPERATION TO
ANY UN ASSISTED EVACUATION PLAN FOR TRAPPED CIVILIANS AND
WOULD RELAY THE MESSAGE OF THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO THE UN.

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